

## Senate Bill No. 1596

### CHAPTER 527

An act to add Section 1368.5 to the Health and Safety Code, and to add Section 10125.1 to the Insurance Code, relating to health care coverage.

[Approved by Governor September 14, 1996. Filed  
with Secretary of State September 16, 1996.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1596, Kopp. Health care coverage: benefits: pharmacists.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans administered by the Commissioner of Corporations. Under existing law, willful violation of any of these provisions is a misdemeanor. Existing law also provides for the regulation of disability insurers administered by the Insurance Commissioner.

Existing law requires that health care service plans and disability insurers provide coverage for certain benefits and services.

This bill would authorize health care service plans and certain disability insurers, that offer coverage for a service that is within the scope of practice of a duly licensed pharmacist, to pay or reimburse the cost of the service performed by a pharmacist for the plan or insurer if the pharmacist otherwise provides services for the plan or insurer.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 1368.5 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1368.5. (a) Every health care service plan that offers coverage for a service that is within the scope of practice of a duly licensed pharmacist may pay or reimburse the cost of the service performed by a pharmacist for the plan if the pharmacist otherwise provides services for the plan.

(b) Payment or reimbursement may be made pursuant to this section for a service performed by a duly licensed pharmacist only when all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The service performed is within the lawful scope of practice of the pharmacist.

(2) The coverage otherwise provides reimbursement for identical services performed by other licensed health care providers.

(c) Nothing in this section shall require the plan to pay a claim to more than one provider for duplicate service or be interpreted to limit physician reimbursement.

SEC. 2. Section 10125.1 is added to the Insurance Code, to read:

10125.1. (a) Every insurer issuing group disability insurance that covers hospital, medical, or surgical expenses that offers coverage for a service that is within the scope of practice of a duly licensed pharmacist may pay or reimburse the cost of the service performed by a pharmacist for the insurer if the pharmacist otherwise provides services for the insurer.

(b) Payment or reimbursement may be made pursuant to this section for a service performed by a duly licensed pharmacist only when all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The service performed is within the lawful scope of practice of the pharmacist.

(2) The coverage otherwise provides reimbursement for identical services performed by other licensed health care providers.

(c) Nothing in this section shall require the insurer to pay a claim to more than one provider for duplicate service or be interpreted to limit physician reimbursement.

